Tennessee Watersheds - EAST

Clear Fork of the Cumberland River
The Tennessee portion of the Clear Fork of the Cumberland River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Campbell, Claiborne, and Scott Counties. The Clear Fork of the Cumberland River and Watershed are named for the clear spring-fed headwaters that form Clear Fork in a narrow limestone gorge in Kentucky. Clear Fork originates in Bell County, Kentucky. It flows through sections of Claiborne and Campbell Counties, then flows north into Kentucky, joining the Cumberland River at Williamsburg, Kentucky. Clear Fork is fed by named and unnamed tributaries.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Conasauga River
The Conasauga River Watershed is located in Southeast Tennessee and includes parts of Bradley and Polk Counties. The name Conasuaga is from the Cherokee work Kahnasagah. Over the years, people have interpreted this name to mean grass, sparkling water, or strong horse. Legend has it that Cherokees hid gold along the banks of the "Kahnasagah" near a waterfall.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Emory River
The Emory River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Bledsoe, Cumberland, Fentress, Morgan, and Roane counties. The Emory River Watershed includes cool, clear streams with high gradients. Parts of Clear Creek, Daddy's Creek, the Emory River, and the Obed River are part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Fort Loudoun Lake
Located in East Tennessee, the Fort Loudoun Lake Watershed includes parts of Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Sevier Counties. The Fort Loudoun Lake Watershed contains Fort Loudoun Dam, the uppermost dam on the Tennessee River. The dam received its name from a British fort that was built near the present site of the dam during the French and Indian War. The fort was named in honor of John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, who was the commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America. Fort Loudoun Reservoir was created by the damming of the Tennessee River, and is a popular site for fishing and boating.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Hiwassee River
The Hiwassee River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and North Carolina. The Tennessee portion includes parts of Bradley, Hamilton, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, and Polk Counties. The name “Hiwassee” is taken from the Cherokee word “Aye-Hawsasi”, which means “meadow along the stream.” The area is characterized by forested slopes, high gradient, clear streams, and rugged terrain. There is great aquatic habitat diversity in the watershed. Information about Tennessee’s watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Holston River
The Holston River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Knox, Sevier, Sullivan, and Union Counties. Native Americans called the Holston River “Hogoheegee.” Early explorers called it “Indian River” and French traders called it the “Cherokee River.” Today, the Holston River is named in honor of Stephen Holston (also spelled Holstein). Holston, an early explorer and surveyor with The Expedition of 1748, was the first settler to explore the Holston River system, including South Fork of the Holston River.

Information about Tennessee’s watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Little Tennessee River
The Little Tennessee River Watershed is located in Tennessee and North Carolina. The Tennessee portion (74.5% of the watershed) includes parts of Blount, Loudon, and Monroe Counties. The watershed was home to the village of Itsa’ sa, or Echota (also spelled Chota), which was regarded as the capital of the Cherokee nation. Headwaters are in both Tennessee and North Carolina, and public lands in Tennessee include the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Cherokee National Forest.

Information about Tennessee’s watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Lower Clinch River
The Lower Clinch River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Anderson, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, and Union Counties. Legend has it that settlers named the waterway “Clinch” based on stories that a Native American was chasing a white man across the river and "clenched" the native, drowning him. Alternative explanations include an early explorer falling off his raft yelling “Clench me.” There are numerous references to Clinch’s River and Pellissippi River (the Native American name).

Information about Tennessee’s watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Lower French Broad River
The Lower French Broad River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Blount, Cocke, Jefferson, Knox, and Sevier Counties.The French Broad River is 210 miles long, rising in the Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina. The river flows north and northwest to Knoxville, where it joins with the Holston River to form the Tennessee River.

The river was an important settlers' route from the southeast coastal states into Tennessee during the colonial period and was named for being one of two broad rivers in western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. The one which flowed into formerly French territory was named the French Broad, and the other which stayed in English territory (the American colonies) was named the English Broad, now just the Broad River. On the river is Douglas Dam, part of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), forming Douglas Lake, which is used for flood control.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Lower Tennessee River
The Lower Tennessee River Watershed includes parts of Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Roane, and Sequatchie Counties.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Nolichucky River
The Nolichucky River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, Jefferson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. The Nolichucky River is a major stream draining the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. The stream was impounded in 1912 when Nolichucky Dam was built near Greenville, Tennessee.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) operated it for electrical power purposes until the 1970s until the degree of siltation of the reservoir, called Davy Crockett Lake, had made continued efforts to operate the facility for hydroelectric purposes impractical. The agency retired the dam as a power source but continues to maintain it and to use it for flood control and recreational purposes. The Nolichucky is considered to be a historic stream in Tennessee, and the state's first governor, John Sevier, was known by the nickname "Nolichucky Jack", a reference to this stream.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

North Fork Holston River
The North Fork Holston River Watershed is located in Tennessee and Virginia. The Tennessee portion (2.5% of the watershed) includes parts of Hawkins and Sullivan Counties. Native Americans called the Holston River "Hogoheegee." Early explorers called it "Indian River" and French traders called it the "Cherokee River." Today, the Holston River is named in honor of Stephen Holston (also spelled Holstein). Holston, an early explorer and surveyor with The Expedition of 1748, was the first settler to explore the Holston River system, including North Fork of the Holston River. Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Ocoee River
The Tennessee portion of the Ocoee River Watershed is wholly contained within Polk County in East Tennessee. Because of its worldwide reputation, the Ocoee River was selected as the site for the 1996 Olympic whitewater boating event. Thousands of people travel to this region every year to challenge the river's mighty rapids, swim in countless "dry river" pools, or simply to view the lush beauty of the Ocoee River Gorge along the Ocoee Scenic Byway.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Pigeon River
The Tennessee Portion of the Pigeon River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Cocke, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties. The Pigeon River of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee rises above Canton, North Carolina, the site of a large Champion Paper Co. paper mill, formerly the source of considerable pollution to the river. Below this, it flows roughly parallel to Interstate 40 for many miles, and is impounded by a dam belonging to Duke Energy (Waterville) before entering Tennessee, where it flows into the French Broad River well above Douglas Dam and the resultant reservoir.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Powell River
The Tennessee portion of the Powell River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Campbell, Claiborne, Hancock, and Union Counties. It is named for a man called Powell who apparently carved his name into many of the trees of the area while accompanying the exploration party of Dr. Thomas Walker in the mid-eighteenth century. His name appeared so frequently on trees in the valley of this river that later explorers and early pioneers came to call the stream "Powell's River" and the valley "Powell's Valley".

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

South Fork Holston River
Located in East Tennessee, the Tennessee portion of South Fork Holston River Watershed includes parts of Carter, Greene, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, and Washington Counties. The Group 2 portion of the watershed just includes parts of Carter, Johnson, and Sullivan Counties. The Holston River and Watershed are named in honor of Stephen Holston. Holston, an early explorer and surveyor with The Expedition of 1748, was the first settler to explore the Holston River system, including South Fork of the Holston River.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Upper Clinch River
The Tennessee portion of the Upper Clinch River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Hancock, Grainger, Hawkins, and Union Counties. Legend has it that settlers named the waterway "Clinch" based on stories that a Native American was chasing a white man across the river. Suddenly the white man turned and "clenched" the native, drowning him in the water.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Upper French Broad River
The Upper French Broad River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Cocke and Greene Counties. The French Broad River is 210 miles long and flows north and northwest to Knoxville, where it joins with the Holston River to form the Tennessee River. The French Broad River was an important settlers' route from the southeast coastal states into Tennessee during the colonial period and was named for being one of two broad rivers in western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. The one which flowed into formerly French territory was named the French Broad, and the other which stayed in English territory (the American colonies) was named the English Broad, now just the Broad River. On the river is Douglas Dam, part of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), forming Lake Douglas, which is used for flood control.

Information about Tennessee's watersheds can be found at:
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.

Watauga River
The Tennessee portion of Watauga River Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. The name "Watauga" means "beautiful river" in the Cherokee language. Cattle and tobacco farming, timber logging operations, and urban areas all occur within the watershed. Part of the Cherokee National Forest, several state parks and wildlife management areas and TVA lakes provide the backdrop for recreation in the watershed.

Watts Bar Lake

The Watts Bar Watershed is located in East Tennessee and includes parts of Bledsoe, Cumberland, Loudon, Meigs, McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, and Roane Counties. Although the origin of the name “Watts” is uncertain, Watts Bar Reservoir is named for Watt Island, a Tennessee River island at mile 529.9. Watts Bar Reservoir was created when the Tennessee River was dammed in 1942. Many resorts are located on Watts Bar Lake, which is known for its supply of black bass and crappie. Springs and caves are relatively numerous in the area. There is great habitat diversity supporting the diverse fish fauna. Many waterfalls occur in the watershed where softer rocks erode under the sandstone cap.

Information about Tennessee’s watersheds can be found at: http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/watershed/wsmplans/.